

TAMPA, FLORIDA

TAMPA YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

2001-2002 Grant Amount: **\$6 Million**

Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA

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Mission and Vision

The Hillsborough County/Tampa Youth Opportunity Movement is focused on serving the youth development needs of young people, ages 14-21, that reside in the target area. The YO! program provides an opportunity for local employers, individuals and young people to be partners in this endeavor. The vision of the Tampa YO! is that all enrolled youth, particularly those who are out of school, acquire the necessary skills and work experience to successfully transition into adulthood, careers, further education and training.

Program Overview

The Tampa YO! goal is to utilize its resources to effectively serve eligible youth by increasing, as well as improving the quality of educational, training and employment opportunities for youth that reside in the EZ/EC target area. Youth Centers have been established by the YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Urban League and CDC. All YO! Centers are located in the EZ/EC area and provide participants with a wide array of recreational, social and educational activities. Target area youth who are in-school also receive specialized services from YDS' who ensure that all 40 schools (middle and high school) that enroll EZ/EC youth are served through YO!.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

- Four permanent YO! Centers are open operated by the Boys & Girls Club, Urban League, CDC, and the YMCA.
- Very balanced and effective partnership between YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, Urban League, CDC, NeXsteps and the school system. The "key players" for each of these partners have been together since 1988, working with youth activities.
- The public school system is a strong partner. After-school tutoring is provided to youth by public school teachers.

KEY PARTNERS/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- **Hillsborough County Workforce Board, Inc.:** Provides oversight
- **YMCA:** Lead agency for the project and operates one Youth Center
- **Boys and Girls Club:** Operates one Youth Center and has lead for the recreation component
- **Urban League:** Operates one Youth Center
- **Corporation to Develop Communities (CDC):** Operates one Youth Center
- **Hillsborough County School System:** Provides after-school tutoring
- **NeXstep (Busch, Marriot, GTE/Verizon, etc.):** Provide job placements.